

FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



02 MAR 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Traffic Fatality -- Fatality Memo 06-07

1. A privately owned vehicle (POV) accident claimed the life of a III Corps Soldier on the morning of 25 February. The Soldier was a passenger in a pickup truck. The vehicle was traveling on an interstate highway when the driver swerved off the roadway and struck a mile marker. The driver then overcorrected causing the vehicle to cross two traffic lanes, go into the median, and roll several times. The Soldier and a child passenger were ejected from the vehicle, and suffered fatal injuries. While this accident is still under investigation, initial assessments indicate fatigue as the causative factor. The initial investigation also revealed that the Soldier did not utilize a seatbelt.
2. POV accidents have claimed nine Soldiers during this fiscal year. The accident scenarios continue to read the same: excessive speed, fatigue, alcohol, and aggressive driving. Failure to use personal safety equipment contributed to the severity of the injuries. Drivers must adhere to posted speed limits and adjust their vehicle speed for conditions: environmental, roadway, and traffic. Many young Soldiers still do not realize the importance of safety equipment such as seat belts or motorcycle helmets. Seat belts work in conjunction with air bags, not in place of them.
3. Commanders and leaders must be actively engaged in POV accident prevention. Evaluate your Soldiers, identify potentially high risk behavior, and take steps to modify their high risk behavior. The Combat Readiness Center (CRC) has a multitude of resources for POV accident prevention (<https://crc.army.mil/home/>). Leaders must ensure their Soldiers complete the Army Safety Management Information System (ASMIS) Risk Assessment Tool prior to all leave, pass, or temporary duty. The first-line leader must be an integral part of this process.
4. As we continue to play an active role in the Global War on Terrorism, we must focus on homestation accident prevention, most specifically POV accident prevention. We must reverse this trend - Now!

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
IAW FH Form 1853: A

FATALITY